

Lowndes Taylor Barn
East side of State Route #100
(937 Pottstown Pike) approximately
one mile N.W. of West Chester Center
Chester County
Pennsylvania

HABS No. PA-1100

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PHOTOGRAPHS
WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

Historic American Buildings Survey
National Park Service
Washington Planning and Service Center
1730 North Lynn Street
Arlington, Virginia

LOWNDES TAYLOR BARN

Location: East side of State Route #100 (937 Pottstown Pike), approximately one mile N.W. of West Chester Center, West Goshen Township, Chester County, Pennsylvania.

Present Owner: Wilford Black, 937 Pottstown Pike, West Goshen Township, (West Chester P.O.), Pennsylvania.

Present Occupant: Wilford Black, 937 Pottstown Pike, West Goshen Township, (West Chester P.O.), Pennsylvania.

Statement of Significance: This large stone barn has some interesting masonry details but no particular historic importance other than it is typical of its period.

PART I. HISTORICAL INFORMATION

A. Physical History:

1. Original and subsequent owners: Lowndes Taylor built the barn in 1820. He died 1833, leaving a widow, Rachel (Baker) Taylor, who continued on the place. Her son Richard Baker Taylor lived there, dying 1891, leaving a son Lowndes Taylor who died 1936. Wilford Black is the present owner and resident.
2. Date of erection: 1820
3. Architect, builder, suppliers etc.: Unknown, except for Albin Hall, the mason, who scratched his name and the date 1820 in two places on the south wall of the barn.
4. Original plans, construction etc.: Rather a regular plan with the lower level to the south, a bridge at the north to the next level, and mows above that are on each side of the barn.
5. Alterations and additions: Frame addition built 1859 which has since been torn down so that now it appears quite as it did in 1820.
6. Important old views and references:
 - a. Views: Landscape in oil by Bass Otis, 28" by 40", 1833, in the Chester County Historical Society. This landscape shows the farm house, barn, mill, miller's house and numerous outbuildings.

- b. References: Sources of information, all to be found in the Chester County Historical Society, West Chester, Pa. - Classified printed and manuscript files under heading: West Goshen Township. - Lands.

B. Historical Events Connected with the Structure:

None known.

C. Likely Sources Not Yet Investigated:

None known.

PART II. ARCHITECTURAL INFORMATION

A. General Statement:

- 1. Architectural character: This large typical stone barn dating from 1820 has interesting masonry details.
- 2. Condition of fabric: Good.

B. Description of Exterior:

- 1. Over-all dimensions: Rectangular 45'-4" x 34' including lower level and upper level.
- 2. Foundations: Stone.
- 3. Wall construction: Dressed polygonal masonry of serpentine limestone makes up all walls except the north wall. On this wall it appears to be uncoursed fieldstone partially covered with stucco. The serpentine limestone walls are approximately twenty inches in thickness. There are ten arch stones and a key stone above each of the Roman-arched door-ways.
- 4. Chimneys: None.
- 5. Openings:
 - a. Doorways and doors: There is one large wooden double door on the north side. There are three horizontally divided doors on the south side and three regular doors on the west side. All six of these are curved at the top to fit the arch. They are constructed of vertical battens.
 - b. Windows and shutters: There are two large windows and three small ones on the south side as well as the large

opening leading to one of the lofts; one window in the gable of the west side and two smaller windows between the doors. All have wooden frames and are the original openings.

6. Roof:

- a. Shape, covering: Gabled roof with a medium pitch and a slate covering.
- b. Cornice, eaves: Original simple wooden overhang of roof. No pent eaves present.
- c. Dormers: None.

C. Description of Interior:

1. Floor Plans: The first floor had eight stalls oriented from east to west and nine cow stanchions from north to south. The 2nd level is entered by a bridge from the north. There are two floors used for storage and loft areas.
2. Stairways: The only staircase still in existence is a spiral stair consisting of ten risers of $7\frac{1}{2}$ " to 8" in height. The stair is located at the north side and connects the first and second floors.
3. Flooring: The floor is original varying in thickness up to two inches.
4. Wall and ceiling finish: Masonry covered with plaster.
5. Doorways and doors: All seem original.
6. Trim: None.
7. Hardware: Some very fine hardware has been used in the barn. Notable are the bars across the south doors in order to keep the horses within. They are 3" x 3" oak beams placed in 5" x 5" wooden sockets. There are two in each door-way placed at $41\frac{1}{2}$ " and 58" above the ground. Strap hinges of cast iron have been used for the doors.
8. Lighting: None.
9. Heating: None.

D. Site:

1. General setting and orientation: House faces south on a hillside with the barn to the east of it.

2. Enclosures: Barn yard to south.
3. Outbuildings: A blacksmith shop and tack room, measuring 15' x 35' are part of the farm property and date from c. 1820. There also exists from this same period a smoke house of 10' x 8' which faces south.
4. Walks, driveways etc.: The driveway enters from Route #100 and goes by the south side of the barn.
5. Landscaping, gardens etc.: Farm land.

Prepared by Bart Anderson
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